(ii) Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding route.

(iii) "Partnership in Excellence" Programme starting with adoption of better operation and maintenance (O&M) practices to enable enhancement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of existing thermal power stations through tie-up with well performing power utilities as a pre-cursor to renovation and modernization.

(iv) Import of coal and RLNG to bridge the gap between demand and anticipated production from domestice sources.

(v) Utilization of unutilized capacity of gas based power stations on liquid fuel.

(vi) Harnessing surplus captive into grid.

(vii) Strengthening of inter-state and inter-regional transmission capacity for optimum utilization of available power.

Power proposals from Rajasthan

698. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of power proposals from Rajasthan including those under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme are pending with the Central Government for approval;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) the time-frame within which these pending proposals would be cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) No proposal from Rajasthan is pending under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). With the coming into effect of the Electricity Act, 2003 the techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is no longer required for thermal generation projects. Concurrence of CEA is now required only for setting up of Hydro electric schemes whose estiamted capital expenditure exceeds the notified limits. No such proposal of Rajasthan is pending with the Government.

Under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), Government of India has laready sanctioned 25 projects at sanctioned cost of Rs. 453.23 crores to Rajasthan for electrification of 1705 un-electrified villages, 10,09,310 un-electrified rural households (including 6,99,651 BPL households). The remaining projects under the scheme from Rajasthan will be examined after approval is received for continuation of RGGVY in XIth Plan.

Rural Electrification in Orissa

699. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has committed that all the villages in Orissa would be lighted up by 2009, under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a centrally funded project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) All villages in the country, including that in Orissa were targeted for electrification by 2009 under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), launched in 2005.

(b) Orissa has submitted 31 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) covering electrification of 13,657 unelectrified villages, re-electrification of 4,223 de-electrified villages and intensive electrification of 28,854 already electrified villages in the State involving an outlay of Rs. 3650.16 crore. Out of these, four projects of districts Angul, Nayagarh, Gajapati & Ganjam have been taken up for implementation in Phase-I of the scheme. All the four projects are under implementation at the sanctioned cost of Rs. 434.10 crore covering 2,602 unelectrified villages, 4,637 electrified villages and 3.35 lakh Below Poverty Line households.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. RGGVY scheme provides for 90% capital subsidy for overall cost of the projects from the Union Ministry of Power budget and the balance 10% as loan from Rural Electrification Corporation.

Laboratories for research work

700. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to set-up more laboratories like the National Brain Research Centre, Manesar which has done pioneering work focusing on how the female harmone estrogen protects the female brain from Parkinson's disease; and

(b) if so, whether the research work, in examining the pharmacological basis of action of medicinal plants used in Ayurveda to treat dementia, would be further strengthened and patented for mass production?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The department of Biotechnology is planning to establish few more laboratories such as Translational Health Science & Technology Institute and UNESCO centre at Faridabad and Stem Cell Research Institute at Bangalore and also Punjab Agri Cluster at Mohali. Further the National Brain Research Centre is planning to establish satellite centres which could be set up in different parts of the country to undertake advanced research in the area of neuroscience.

(b) The National Brain Research Centre is carrying out research work on using traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda for discovering newer cures for Alzheimer's disease. The ongoing experiments have to be followed up by pre-clinical toxicology testing in animals after which clinical trials can be initiated to determine the efficacy in patient population. The patenting of this discovery is currently under progress.